GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3534
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2005
LAND SALINITY
Barad Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai;Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the increase in salinity land in the country particularly in Gujarat and Karnataka is causing a concern to agriculture;

(b) if so, the total area thus rendered useless during the last five years;

(c) the steps being taken by the Union Government alongwith the timeframe fixed for checking the increase in salinity; and

(d) the details of saline land in States and Union Territories having coastal areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)&(b): Yes Sir. An estimated area of 1.946 lakh ha. was affected with salinity in the command area of the State of Karnataka. The area affected with salinity in the State of Gujarat was estimated to be 8.2 lakh ha.

(c): The Government has taken steps for development of technology for prevention of control of salinity. The Information generated by Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal has been disseminated to technical personel from State Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Forestry.

The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has no specific scheme for Reclamation of saline Soil in the country. However, under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Macro Management of Agriculture, the State Governments have been given flexibility to propose any new programme upto 10% of the total allocation for the State in the year.

(d): The details of saline soil in States/UTs. are:-

States/Union Territory	Extent of Saline Soils (Lakh ha.)
West Bengal	8.2
Gujarat	8.2
Orissa	4.0
Andhra Pradesh	2.76
Tamil Nadu	1.0
Karnataka	1.95
Maharashtra	0.63
Kerala	0.26
Goa	0.18
Pondicherry	0.01
Andaman & N. Island	0.15
Total	27.34